

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 05003 280124Z

73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 /061 W

----- 091788

R 280104Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6276

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5003

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION REACTION TO PRESS

CENSORSHIP IN INDIA

1. MR. GEOFF HUGHES, ABC BUREAU CHIEF IN NEW DELHI, ASKED HOME OFFICE LAST WEEK HOW HE SHOULD RESPOND TO GOI'S REQUEST THAT HE SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH IN EFFECT IMPOSES SELF-CENSORSHIP ON HIS REPORTING OUT OF INDIA. HE WAS ADVISED TO SIGN ON THE THEORY THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE AN ABC MAN ON THE SCENE EVEN IF HIS FREEDOM OF REPORTING IS HAMPERED, THAN TO HAVE HIM EXPELLED, WHICH WAS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF HE DIDN'T SIGN.

2. ABC-TV AND RADIO CONTROLLER OF NEWS, MR. KIETH FRAZER, HAS INSTRUCTED NEWS DEPARTMENT TO SCRUTINIZE HUGHES' REPORTING AND TO "REVIEW IT DAY TO DAY". IF IT APPEARS TO BECOME DISTORTED DUE TO GOI CENSORSHIP, WHICH ABC BELIEVES IS NOT RPT NOT THE CASE AT THE MOMENT, ABC SAYS IT WILL WITHDRAW HUGHES FROM NEW DELHI "WITH RELUCTANCE".

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 05003 280124Z

3. MEANWHILE, THE ABC PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT, WHICH IS

SEPARATE FROM THE NEW DEPARTMENT, HAS STATED THAT IT  
"WILL NOT USE" MATERIAL RECEIVED FROM HUGHES BECAUSE OF  
THE RESTRAINTS IMPOSED ON HIS FREEDOM OF REPORTING.

4. ABC STATES THAT ABOVE DECISIONS TAKEN ON ITS OWN  
INITIATIVE AND THAT SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT  
ALL WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDIA OR ANY OTHER GOA  
SOURCE, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE ABC IS SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL  
BODY.

FINDLAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION CONTROL, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisooob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CANBER05003  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750259-0387  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750713/aaaaalzt.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisooob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by ellisooob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION REACTION TO PRESS CENSORSHIP IN INDIA  
**TAGS:** PINS, AS, IN, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP, (HUGHES, GEOFF), (FRAZER, KIETH)  
**To:** USIA NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006